

Subject: Yakima Dairy Articles
To: CN=Jennifer MacDonald/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=Rene Fuentes/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=Edward Kowalski/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=Sheila Fleming/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA
Cc: CN=Thomas Eaton/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=Michael Cox/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=Mark Macintyre/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=Allyn Stern/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=David Allnutt/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=Dan Opalski/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA CN=Bill Dunbar/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA
From: CN=Eric Winiecki/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US
Submit Time: 12/26/2012 16:27:01

Fyi, this Seattle Times article ran Tuesday, December 26, on the front page:

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2019988269_dairyenergy26m.html

Also, the Yakima Herald article that ran on December 20 generated these reader comments:

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Greg Bohn · Top Commenter

I just read the report. All downgradient wells contained from 20 to 60 times more nitrate than upgradient wells. The dairies are the cause of the nitrate, plain and simple!!

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Greg Bohn · Top Commenter

The urine problem is an excellent point. And yes, Ms. Van Boven (dairy family), I have researched hundreds of scientific papers concerning dairy wastes and their management: from both sides. The overwhelming majority indicates that dairies pollute. And the more concentrated the dairies, the greater the pollution. So you and your family friends (other dairy families) and the industry can try to make everybody look the other way, but any really honest person will deduce from the information that the nitrate problem is primarily caused by the dairies.

Remember CARE vs Bosma? In court records, other local dairy owners testified that they knew he was polluting the environment, but they said nothing. So, if they protected that person, then Yes I do know that the whole industry would rather protect their own than protect, or even care a rat's rear about, the average citizen.

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Vicente Gutierrez

I've read there are around 315,000 head of cattle in Yakima county and all of them pollute our environment. The manure and its stench that at times is gut wrenching is the most noticeable. But what about all that urine that seeps into the ground and directly into our drinking water? Ever wonder if all that air born manure dust carries viruses and other respiratory ailments for us humans? (ie. Averian and swine flu) too many unexplained respiratory ailments around here. Yakima county should create and tax the dairies ,feedlots, and pasture raised cattle per head per year. Would create needed revenue for various uses.

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Forrest Emmons

I own property adjacent to one of the named dairy s and i have work on and or
around most of the others. I think we need to remember that our Valleys dairy s
provide thousands of Jobs and products that stimulate our weak economy .
yes we need to get to the bottom of the well water nitrate issue but this should be
done responsibly using sound science and common sense.

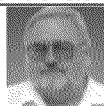
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· December 19 at 8:18pm



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[Bob Larson](#) · Top Commenter · [Technology Training Consultant](#) at [Lighthouse Consulting](#)

Agreed, but it doesn't have to be an either or. Jobs at the expense of neighbor's health isn't really a trade-off.

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Bob Larson · Top Commenter · Technology Training Consultant at Lighthouse Consulting

We heard many of these same complaints not so long ago about EPA's decision on the wells up in Kittitas County tapping water already owned by Sr rights holders and they were finally upheld in larger studies and court actions - delaying actions as it turned out. If I had to choose, I'd side with the scientist on the public's payroll rather than the industry's.

I was raised in a dairy family so I'm not anti, but poisoning people's well is not an oops you can just overlook.

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· December 19 at 3:59pm



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Heidi Romans Van Boven · Top Commenter

There are ways to mitigate lagoon water storage. Do not be so quick to side with someone's opinion because they are on the government payroll. Do not be so quick to dispute the dairy industry position just because you think they have their best interest in mind only. If you are truly interested and want to genuinely learn about this issue, I urge you to read the research on both sides. Do some homework. But do not bias your decision based on media hype, and assumption. There is a lot of misinformation out there, and based on some of the comments here, I can clearly see that people are buying into it.

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· December 19 at 9:04pm



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[Bob Larson](#) · [Top Commenter](#) · [Technology Training Consultant at Lighthouse Consulting](#)

Heidi, thanks again for the lecture. I will of course continue to study the facts. But let's not pretend this is either rocket science or brain surgery. Some of us went to school in the 60s when science was still taught.

Cow waste contains many problems harmful to humans, high density cow operations means more waste and more problems. If the waste is allowed into the ground it will go somewhere following the same laws of science that have always existed.

Some of us worked to get agencies like EPA so that the public would have an intelligent voice to compete with industry funded studies or too often cover-ups. I trust them, they work for us (the public). They are not stupid people, they are credentialed and only in the industry's mind are they out to hurt anyone. You trust the industry experts, they work for you - but they do not work for the public. So, my original point is I will go with "our" experts.

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· December 20 at 12:07pm

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Event.__inlineSubmit(this,event) □ AVqJGWsg L Isd Submit Query
Jan Whitefoot · Top Commenter · Heritage University

I thought Rand Elliot was suppose to be neutral and represent citizens also, not just industry. Millions of gallons of manure leaking from lagoons should be an indicator where the manure is coming from. Why do taxpyers have to pay for the monitoring wells? 215,000 cows in Yakima County. The poop has to go somewhere.

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Jan Whitefoot · Top Commenter · Heritage University

The reason the feds are here is because the dairy industry, Yakima County and the state have ignored the pollution for over 20 years.

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Greg Bohn · Top Commenter

Besides being a Yakima County Commissioner, we are now supposed to believe that Rand Elliott is scientist capable of determining whether or not a federal scientific report is accurate? Give me a break! Mr. Elliott is only out to protect his own interests, not the public's.

The Dairy Federation would have applauded the scientific method and supported the conclusions of the EPA report, if that report had stated that dairies were not a problem. What do you expect Jay to say? He gets paid by the Dairy Federation.

The truth to the report will be supported by the upgradient groundwater samples! All dairies should have upgradient and downgradient wells, because that is the only way to truly know if groundwater contamination has occurred. They are not presently required to do so!

Using Saqib Mukhtar as the credible reviewer is laughable. He is an agriculture extension engineer, which is the same as saying he is in the pocket of the agriculture industry. Why not get an actual groundwater engineer to review the report? I forgot, the report WAS MADE by actual groundwater engineers and peer-reviewed by other actual groundwater engineers prior to being published.

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